ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A microcrystalline cellulose-based excipient having improved compressibility, whether utilized in direct compression, dry granulation or wet granulation formulations, is disclosed. The excipient is an agglomerate of microcrystalline cellulose particles and from about 0.1% to about 20% silicon dioxide particles, by weight of microcrystalline cellulose, wherein the microcrystalline cellulose and silicon dioxide are in intimate association with each other. The silicon dioxide utilized in the novel excipient has a particle size from about 1 nanometer to about 100 microns. Most preferably , the silicon dioxide is a grade of colloidal silicon dioxide. An extra low moisture excipient is provided which exhibits improved compressibility as compared to conventional microcrystalline cellulose, while providing a moisture content of of from about 0.5 to 2.5 % LOD, preferably between about 0.5 and about 1.8 %, more preferably between 0.8 and 1.5 %, and most preferably between about 0.8 and about 1.2 %.